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Today more than 37,000 legal permanent residents serve in the United States military comprising nearly 5 percent of all enlisted personnel on active duty. Over 8,000 of these immigrant service members come from California.

Legal immigrants now serving in our Armed Forces display tremendous bravery and patriotism for this country. With the United States at war and engaged in a long-term commitment in the reconstruction efforts in Iraq, the need to recognize the sacrifice of these men and women is necessary and those who wish to become U.S. citizens deserve to be naturalized without any delay.

Recently, the cities of Los Angeles, Chicago, including the State of California have passed resolutions to support efforts to expedite the citizenship process for men and women serving in the military.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors directs the County to support **Senate Bill 789** (Boxer-Nelson) and send a 5-signature letter to President George W. Bush to expedite the naturalizations services for the permanent U.S. residents serving in the military who will be honorably discharged.

LO/jh

| | <u>MOTION</u> |
|-------------|---------------|
| Molina | |
| Yaroslavsky | |
| Knabe | |
| Antonovich | |
| Burke | |



County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 (213) 974-1101 http://cao.co.la.ca.us

April 25, 2003

Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY Third District

DON KNABE Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

To:

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair

Supervisor Gloria Molina Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT S. 789 (NELSON, D-FL) CITIZENSHIP FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT OF 2003, (ITEM NO. 23, AGENDA OF APRIL 29, 2003)

Agenda Item No. 23 is a motion by Supervisor Molina that the Board support S. (Nelson, D-FL), the Citizenship for Service Members Act of 2003, and send a signature letter to President Bush to expedite naturalization services for permanent residents serving in the military who will be honorably discharged.

S. 789, which is co-sponsored by Senator Boxer, would reduce the waiting period from three years to two years, waive all naturalization fees, and allow for naturalization proceedings to occur overseas for members of the U.S. military. The bill was introduced on April 3, 2003, and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee which has not yet scheduled any hearings on the bill.

There are no current Board policies relating to S. 789 and therefore, a position on the bill is a matter for Board determination.

DEJ:GK MAL:MT:ib

 Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors County Counsel